

## INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Korea

DATE DISTR. 5 APR 51

SUBJECT North Korean Stay-Behind Workers

NO. OF PAGES 2

25X1A

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO. 25X1X

1. Before its evacuation of Pyongyang, the North Korean Labor Party held an emergency meeting in its headquarters at the end of September 1950. On the instructions of the headquarters, orders were given for the responsible persons of the provincial and city party headquarters to appoint two enthusiastic and suitable underground workers from each office.
2. These appointees were to be left behind when the North Koreans retreated and were to form an underground Communist organization and to disrupt the controls of the occupying UN forces by penetrating low-level administrative organs. Through faithful Communists who remained in their usual residences, these agents were to obtain employment with the occupying forces and do what damage they could to unity. Others were to rally Communist sympathizers among the laborers engaged in fishing; and various maritime employments and use them to cause disturbances.
3. Stay-behinds were provided with gold from the Central Bank of North Korea for the execution of their tasks. They were also given raw opium, which the North Korean government purchased on the open market, and other valuable articles. Non-Communist supporters believe that any traffic in narcotics and drugs may be connected with these undercover activities of the North Korean agents.
4. Some of the personnel who were assigned as stay-behinds are the following:
  - a. KEE Yol (金烈),\* in Kangwon Province. He is a native of South Hamgyong, about 42 years old, who lived in China for several years and then became a partisan in the USSR. He returned to Korea to become chairman of the South Hamgyong Labor Party, and just before the North Korean invasion in June 1950, he was transferred to Pyongyang to handle labor union affairs. He is familiar with Kangwon Province and is popular among shipping workers in Wonsan, where he was expected to make his headquarters.
  - b. CHANG Ki-uk (張基勳), aged 52, in South Hamgyong Province, a native of Wonsan. Just after World War II, he became Deputy Minister of Defense in the Republic of Korea; later he belonged to the South Korean Labor Party.

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Document No. 01  
No Change In Class.   
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Class. Changed To: TS S C  
Auth.: HR 70-2  
Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP82-00457R00710015

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-2-

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and was a member of the National Assembly. He worked with HO Sóng-t'aek (호성택), \*\* chairman of the General Association of Labor Unions of ROK. Just before the North Korean invasion CHANG was made chairman of the North Hamgyong Labor Party. He has under his influence many prominent government officials and leaders in the ROK, including KANG Ki-chin (강기진), former governor of South Hamgyong.

c. CH'OE Hak-kol (최학걸), for North Hamgyong Province. About 42 and a native of Songjin, CH'OE was active in leftist movements in Japan in his youth and was leader of an anti-government disturbance caused by a farmers' cooperative society at Kyongchon (1929-38, 41-42). Although the Japanese police tried for three years to arrest him, he evaded them and remained at large in North Hamgyong. After World War II he was chairman of the North Hamgyong Farmers' Union and a trusted henchman of the NKLP.

25X1A

\* [REDACTED] Comment. KIM Yol was previously reported as a member of the North Korean deciding body on policy from 1948.

25X1A

\*\* [REDACTED] Comment. HO Sóng-t'aek, North Korean Minister of Labor, is a native of North Hamgyong and a member of the Korean Central Labor Party Central Committee. [REDACTED] 25X1A

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